CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for automatically provisioning data in a distributed database system, the

2   method comprising the steps:

3   a database server causing a tablespace to be transported from a first file system to a

4   second file system; and

5   after transporting said tablespace to said second file system, said database server

6   importing said tablespace into a local database managed by said database

7   server.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of a database server causing a tablespace to

2   be transported and the step of said database server importing said tablespace are both

3   performed in response to invocation of a routine.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said routine is written in code that conforms to a

2   database language and that may be executed by a database server.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of importing includes attaching said

2   tablespace to said local database.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the tablespace is attached to another database before

2   and during performance of the step of said database server causing a tablespace to be

3   transported.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the tablespace is offline before and during

2   performance of the step of said database server causing a tablespace to be transported.

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1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein:

2   the step of importing the tablespace includes attaching a copy of the tablespace,

3   wherein the copy is different than said tablespace; and

4   said database server provisions a synchronization mechanism that applies changes

5   made to the tablespace to the copy.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the synchronization mechanism applies changes

2   made to the copy to the tablespace.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the steps further include:

2   the synchronization mechanism determining which changes to the tablespace to

3   propagate to the copy based on the results of an evaluation of a set of rules by

4   a rules engine; and

5   wherein the step of provisioning the synchronization mechanism includes configuring

6   said set of rules.

1 10. A method for a database server to provide copies of files, the method comprising the

2   steps of:

3   a first database server receiving a request to create a copy of a file stored in a first file

4   system of a first operating system;

5   said first database server causing the creation of said copy in a particular file system

6   of a particular operating system; and

7   wherein said copy is a different file than said particular file.

1   11.   The method of claim 10, wherein:

2   the step of a first database server receiving a request includes the first database server

3   receiving a request to transport a copy of the file to said particular file system;

4   wherein the first database server causing the creation of said copy includes causing

5   the transmission of the copy of said file between said first database server and

6   said second database server; and

7   storing said copy in said particular file system.

1   12.   The method of claim 11, wherein:

2   said first file system is local relative to said first database server and remote relative

3   to said second database server;

4   said particular file system is local relative to said second database server and remote

5   relative to said first database server; and

6   wherein the step of storing is performed by said second database server.

1   13.   The method of claim 12, wherein the step of causing the transmission includes

2   causing the transmission of the copy as a binary file via a messaging system that

3   propagates messages between said first database server and said second database

4   server.

1   14.   The method of claim 11, wherein:

2   said first file system is local relative to said second database server and remote

3   relative to said first database server;

4   said particular file system is local relative to said first database server and remote

5   relative to said second database server; and

6   wherein the step of storing is performed by said first database server.

1   15.   The method of claim 10, wherein said first file system is local relative to said first

2   database server and said particular file system is local relative to said first database

3   server.

1   16.   The method of claim 10, wherein receiving a request includes the invocation of a

2   routine that passes as a parameter a value identifying the file.

1   17.   The method of claim 10, wherein:

2   receiving a request includes receiving a command through an interface;

3   said database server executes commands received through said interface that conform

4   to a database language; and

5   said command identifies the file.

1   18.   A method for automatically instantiating database data in a distributed database

2   system, the method comprising the steps:

3   a database server causing a set of one or more files to be transported from a first file

4   system to a second file system;

5   wherein said set of one or more files store data for a database; and

6   after transporting said set of one or more files to said second file system, said

7   database server provisioning said database as a database managed by said

8   database server.

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1   19.   The method of claim 18, wherein the set of files is a tablespace, wherein the step of

2   provisioning includes:

3   attaching said tablespace to said database.

1   20.   The method of claim 18, wherein said set of one or more files includes metadata

2   describing database objects and commands for inserting data into the database

3   objects, wherein the step of provisioning includes importing said data into said

4   database by executing commands.

1   21.   The method of claim 18, wherein said set of one or more files includes backup files

2   created by a recovery manager, wherein the step of provisioning includes causing said

3   recovery manager to create said database from said backup files.

1   22.   The method of claim 21, wherein an archive log stores data recording changes to said

2   database made after creating the backup files, wherein the step of provisioning further

3   includes changing said database to reflect changes recorded in said archive log.

1   23.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 1.

1   24.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 2.

1   25.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 3.

1   26.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 4.

1   27.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 5.

1   28.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 6.

1   29.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 7.

1   30.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 8.

1   31.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 9.

1   32.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 10.

1   33.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 11.

1   34.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 12.

1   35.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 13.

1   36.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 14.

1   37.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 15.

1   38.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 16.

1   39.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 17.

1   40.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 18.

1   41.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 19.

1   42.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 20.

1   43.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 21.

1   44.   A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which,

2   when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to

3   perform the method recited in Claim 22.